

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:

- 5 providing a sample of gastric material from a patient;
 contacting said gastric material with a first powdered composition comprising urea, said urea being capable of being converted into ammonia when contacted with urease; and
 thereafter contacting said gastric material with a second
10 composition comprising an indicator, said indicator being configured to indicate the presence of ammonia thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said urea has a mean particle size of less than 0.1 mm.

- 15 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said first composition further comprises an anti-caking agent.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition comprises a gel.

- 20 5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition comprises agar in addition to said indicator.

6. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said indicator comprises a pH indicator that changes color when the pH is increased.

7. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said urea has a mean particle size of less than about 0.05 mm.

- 25 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said first composition and said second composition are positioned in the same container in a spaced apart relationship.

9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises a bactericide or a bacteristat.

- 30 10. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said indicator comprising phenol red.

11. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises a pH adjuster.

12. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein said second composition further comprises agar and a pH adjuster.

5 13. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said gastric material is contacted with said first composition such that at least a portion of the urea is combined with the gastric material prior to being contacted with said second composition.

10 14. A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:

 providing a sample of a gastric biopsy material from a patient;

 contacting said gastric material with a first composition comprising urea, said urea being capable of being converted into ammonia when contacted with urease;

15 thereafter contacting said gastric biopsy material with a second composition comprising an indicator contained in a gel, said indicator being configured to change color for indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.

20 15. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said urea is present as a powder in said first composition.

 16. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein said second composition further comprises agar and a pH adjuster, and wherein said indicator comprises phenol red.

25 17. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said gastric material is contacted with said first composition such that at least a portion of the urea is combined with the gastric material prior to being contacted with said second composition.

 18. A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:

30 providing a sample of gastric material from a patient;
 contacting said gastric material with a composition

comprising a powdered urea and a dry indicator, said urea being capable of being converted into ammonia when contacted with urease and said indicator being configured to indicate the presence of ammonia thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.

5 19. A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said urea present within said composition has a mean particle size of less than about 0.1 mm.

 20. A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said urea present within said composition has a mean particle size of less than about 0.05
10 mm.

 21. A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said composition further comprises an anti-caking agent.

 22. A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said indicator comprises a pH indicator that changes color when the pH is increased.
15